

# CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY INFORMATION REPORT

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Soviet Naval Aviation (A VMS)

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The mission of Soviet Naval Aviation has been increased considerably since World War II. Soviet Naval Aviation has been furnished with new equipment including new types of aircraft. During World War II the primary missions of Naval Aviation were:

- (a) To engage in combat with enemy warships at sea.
- (b) To provide cover for its warships at sea, and reconnaissance.
- (c) To provide air defense (PVO) for the naval bases, coastal and sea zones against enemy air attacks and enemy amphibious landings.

The aforementioned missions were to be accomplished in tactical zones (operations within short distances). Since 1945, the mission of Soviet Naval Aviation has been expanded as a result of technological progress in other air forces. Therefore, its mission now includes the following additional tasks:

- (a) To engage in combat with enemy warships far at sea in close coordination with the submarine fleet.
- (b) To conduct long-range, over-water reconnaissance in the interest of the naval fleet, submarines and Naval Aviation.

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- (c) To conduct combat training jointly with the submarine forces with the aim of gaining experience in warfare against naval aircraft carriers.
- (d) To provide air cover for amphibious landings on enemy territory.
- (e) To conduct air strikes on enemy naval bases.

Naval Aviation (A VMS) coordinates its activities with some units of the VVS SA, (Military Air Forces), especially those that are based near the coastal regions. Liaison between the A VMS and VVS SA is maintained on the divisional and higher echelon levels in compliance with the directives from respective headquarters. In some cases this liaison has been established through personal initiative of commanders concerned, followed by a report to their headquarters. Usually this liaison is conducted between the commanders of A VMS and VVS SA fighter organizations. In addition to this type of liaison, the commander of a naval base coordinates his activity with the commander of the Air Army which is based nearby. They also exchange information on air defense tactics. Liaison between these two arms is conducted by radio, telephone and telegraph. There are also personal agreements on joint operations and written plans for joint operations signed by both sides and approved by their respective higher headquarters.

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In some editions of the Informational Bulletins of the General Staff Academy in the name of "Voroshilov", the basic missions of Naval Aviation are described. Among other responsibilities, they have listed the task of combating enemy aircraft carriers. The details of tactics to be used were not described in these bulletins. The sources of information on Naval Aviation were the above listed bulletins. These were classified Top Secret.

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The Soviet military command has plans and theories dealing with the use of air power in amphibious warfare already worked out. An information bulletin dealing with the theories of this question has been published by the General Staff Academy in the name of "Voroshilov", which is located in Leningrad. This bulletin states that the VVS SA can and should participate, along with Naval Aviation (A VMS) in amphibious warfare. The VVS SA is to concentrate on harassing the enemy ground forces in order to facilitate the establishment of a beachhead by friendly amphibious forces. Naval Aviation, on the other hand, is to combat enemy naval forces which might be engaged in harassing the friendly amphibious operations. This bulletin also states that at times, it is necessary to carry out combined operations, ie, simultaneous airborne operations and amphibious operations in order to establish a beachhead. Obviously, very close coordination between the VVS SA and Naval Aviation is necessary for these combined operations.

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